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BOOK OF RUTH.

THE COMMON VERSION REVISED

FOR

THE AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.

By HORATIO B. HACKETT.

FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CAUSE OF A PURE BIBLE

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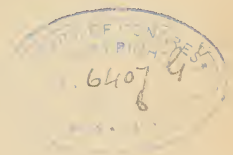
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R U T H.

- ¹ AND it came to pass in the days when the judges judged, that there was a famine in the land. And a man of Bethlehem-judah went to sojourn in the fields of Moab, he, and his
- ² wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem-judah. And they came into the fields of Moab, and were there.
- ³ And Elimelech Naomi's husband died, and she was left,
- ⁴ and her two sons. And they took to themselves wives, women of Moab, the name of the one Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth; and they dwelt there about ten years.
- ⁵ And both of them also, Mahlon and Chilion, died, and the woman [alone] of her husband and her two sons was left.
- ⁶ And she arose, she, and her daughters-in-law, and returned from the fields of Moab; for she heard in the field of Moab that Jehovah had visited his people to give them bread.
- ⁷ And she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her, and they went on the way
- ⁸ to return to the land of Judah. And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law: Go, return, each to the house of her mother. Jehovah deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt
- ⁹ with the dead and with me! Jehovah grant you to find a place of rest, each in the house of her husband! And she
- ¹⁰ kissed them; and they lifted up their voice and wept, and
- ¹¹ said to her: With thee will we return to thy people. And Naomi said: Return, my daughters; why would ye go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be hus-
- ¹² bands for you? Return, my daughters, go; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say: I have hope, [and] should even have a husband to-night, and should even bear

¹³ sons, would ye then wait till they were grown up? Would ye then shut yourselves up so as not to have a husband? Nay, my daughters; for to me it is much more bitter than to you; for the hand of Jehovah has gone out against me.

¹⁴ And they lifted up their voice and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said: Behold, thy sister-in-law has returned to her people, and to her god; return thou after thy sister-in-law. And Ruth said: Urge me not to leave thee, to return from following thee; for whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people are my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried. Let Jehovah do so to me, and more also!

¹⁸ Death shall part between me and thee. And when she saw that she was fully resolved to go with her, she ceased to speak to her.

¹⁹ And they went, both of them, until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass when they came to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved on account of them; and they said: Is this Naomi? And she said to them: Call me not Naomi, call me Mara; for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and empty has Jehovah brought me back. Why call ye me Naomi, when Jehovah has borne witness against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?

²² And [so] Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned from the fields of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley-harvest.

¹ AND Naomi had an acquaintance of her husband's, a strong and valiant man, of the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi: Let me, I pray thee, go into the field, and glean among the ears after him in whose eyes I may find favor. And she said to her: Go, my daughter. And she went, and came,

and gleaned in the field after the reapers ; and her lot was to fall on the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was⁴ of the family of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers : Jehovah be with you !⁵ And they said to him : Jehovah bless thee ! And Boaz said to his young man that was set over the reapers : Whose⁶ maid is this ? And the young man who was set over the reapers answered and said : She is a Moabitish maid, who⁷ has come back with Naomi from the fields of Moab : and she said : Let me glean, I pray thee, and I will gather among the sheaves after the reapers : and she came, and has stood from the morning even until now ; her sitting there in the house has been but little.

⁸ Then said Boaz to Ruth : Hearest thou not, my daughter ? Go not to glean in another field, and do not even pass from⁹ hence, but here keep close with my maidens. Let thine eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have not I commanded the young men not to touch thee ? And when thou art thirsty go to the vessels, and drink of¹⁰ that which the young men draw. And she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the earth, and said to him : Why have I found favor in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take notice¹¹ of me, when I am a stranger ? And Boaz answered, and said to her : It has been fully told me all that thou hast done with thy mother-in-law since the death of thy husband, and that thou hast left thy father, and thy mother, and the land of thy birth, and hast gone to a people that thou knewest¹² not heretofore. Jehovah recompense thy work, and full be thy reward from Jehovah God of Israel, under whose wings¹³ thou hast come to trust. And she said : Let me find favor in thine eyes, my lord ; for thou hast comforted me and hast spoken to the heart of thy maid-servant, though I be not as¹⁴ one of thy maid-servants. And Boaz said to her at meal-time : Come thou hither, and eat thy bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and he reached her roasted ears, and she ate, and was satisfied,¹⁵ and had more left. And when she rose up to glean, Boaz

commanded his young men, saying: Let her glean among
16 the sheaves also, and reproach her not; and even pull out
some from the bundles for her, and leave it, and let her
glean it; and rebuke her not.

17 And she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out
what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city; and her mother-
in-law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought forth
and gave to her what had been left after she was satisfied.

19 And her mother-in-law said to her: Where hast thou gleaned
to-day? and where hast thou worked? Blessed be he that took
notice of thee! And she told her mother-in-law with whom
she had worked, and said: The man's name with whom I

20 worked to-day is Boaz. And Naomi said to her daughter-
in-law: Blessed be he of Jehovah, who has not left off his
kindness toward the living and toward the dead! And

Naomi said to her: The man is near of kin to us, one of
21 those who should redeem us. And Ruth the Moabitess

said: He said to me also: Thou shalt keep close with my
22 young men, until they have ended all my harvest. And

Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law: It is good, my
daughter, that thou goest out with his maidens, that men

23 meet thee not in another field. And she kept close by the
maidens of Boaz to glean, unto the end of the barley harvest,
and of the wheat harvest. And she dwelt with her mother-
in-law.

1 AND Naomi her mother-in-law said to her: My daughter,
shall I not seek for thee a place of rest, where it may be well

2 with thee? And now is not Boaz our acquaintance, with
whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnows barley to-

3 night in the threshing-floor; and wash, and anoint thyself,
and put thy garments upon thee, and go down to the thresh-
ing-floor; make not thyself known to the man until he has

4 done eating and drinking. And it shall be when he lies
down, that thou shalt mark the place where he lies, and

V. 20. *who should redeem us*; strictly, "our redeemers," in the sense of Lev. 25: 23 ff.

shalt go and uncover at his feet, and lie down ; and he will
5 tell thee what thou shalt do. And she said to her : All that
thou sayest to me I will do.

6 And she went down to the threshing-floor, and did accord-
7 ing to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her. And
Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was merry, and he came
to lie down at the end of the heap of grain-sheaves ; and she
8 came softly, and uncovered at his feet, and lay down. And
it came to pass at midnight, that the man was frightened,
and turned himself, and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.
9 And he said : Who art thou ? And she said : I am Ruth
thy handmaid, and spread thy wing over thy handmaid ; for
10 thou art a redeemer. And he said : Blessed be thou of Je-
hovah, my daughter ; thou hast made thy latter kindness
better than the former, in not going after the young men,
11 whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, fear not ; all
that thou sayest I will do for thee ; for all the gate of my
12 people knows that thou art a brave woman. And now it is
true, assuredly, that I am thy redeemer, and yet there is a
13 redeemer nearer than I. Tarry to-night, and it shall be in
the morning, if he will redeem thee, well ; let him redeem ;
but if he be not pleased to redeem thee, then will I re-
deem thee, as Jehovah lives. Lie down until the morning.

14 And she lay down at his feet until the morning. And
she rose up before one could know another ; and he said :
Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing-
15 floor. And he said : Give here the mantle that is upon thee,
and hold it. And she held it, and he measured six [meas-
ures] of barley, and laid it on her, and went into the city.
16 And she came to her mother-in-law : and she said : Who
art thou, my daughter ? And she told her all that the man
17 had done to her. And she said : These six [measures] of
barley he gave me ; for he said : Go not empty to thy
18 mother-in-law. And she said : Abide, my daughter, until
thou knowest how the matter will fall out ; for the man will
not be quiet, unless he finish the matter to-day.

V. 11. *Gate*, well known to be the "place of concourse," and therefore naturally put for the people who frequent it.

- ¹ AND Boaz went up to the gate, and sat there ; and behold the redeemer of whom Boaz spoke passed by. And he said : Turn aside, sit down here, thou such a one ! And he turned
- ² aside, and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said : Sit ye down here ; and they sat down.
- ³ And he said to the redeemer : The portion of the field which belonged to our brother Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned
- ⁴ from the field of Moab, has sold. And I said : I will inform thee, saying : Buy it in the presence of those who sit [here], and in the presence of the elders of my people ; if thou wilt redeem, redeem ; and if thou wilt not redeem, tell me that I may know ; for there is none except thee to redeem, and
- ⁵ I am after thee. And he said : I will redeem. Then said Boaz : In the day when thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou buyest it also of Ruth the Moabitess, wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead on his possession.
- ⁶ And the redeemer said : I can not redeem it for myself, lest I injure my own possession ; redeem thou for thyself what I should redeem ; for I can not redeem it.
- ⁷ And this was formerly the custom in Israel, in a case of redeeming, and in a case of exchanging, to confirm everything : one drew off his shoe, and gave it to the other ; and
- ⁸ this was testimony in Israel. And the redeemer said to Boaz : Buy it for thyself ; and he drew off his shoe. And Boaz said to the elders, and to all the people : Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of
- ¹⁰ Naomi. And also Ruth the Moabitess, wife of Mahlon, have I bought to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead on his possession, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place.
- ¹¹ Ye are witnesses this day. And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said : We are witnesses. Jehovah make the woman who comes to thy house like Rachel, and like Leah, which two built the house of Israel ; and acquire

thou strength in Ephraïtah, and get a name in Bethlehem.

¹² And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, of the seed which Jehovah shall give thee of this young woman.

¹³ And Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he came in unto her, and Jehovah gave her conception, and she bore a son. And the women said to Naomi: Blessed be Jehovah, who has not left thee without a redeemer this day;

¹⁵ and let his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to thee a restorer of thy soul, and a sustainer of thy old age; for thy daughter-in-law, who loves thee, has borne him, she who is better for thee than seven sons. And Naomi took the child, and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse.

¹⁷ And the neighbor women gave him a name, saying: A son is born to Naomi. And they called his name Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ And this is the family record of Pharez: Pharez begot Hezron; and Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; ²⁰ and Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; and Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; and ²¹ ²² Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

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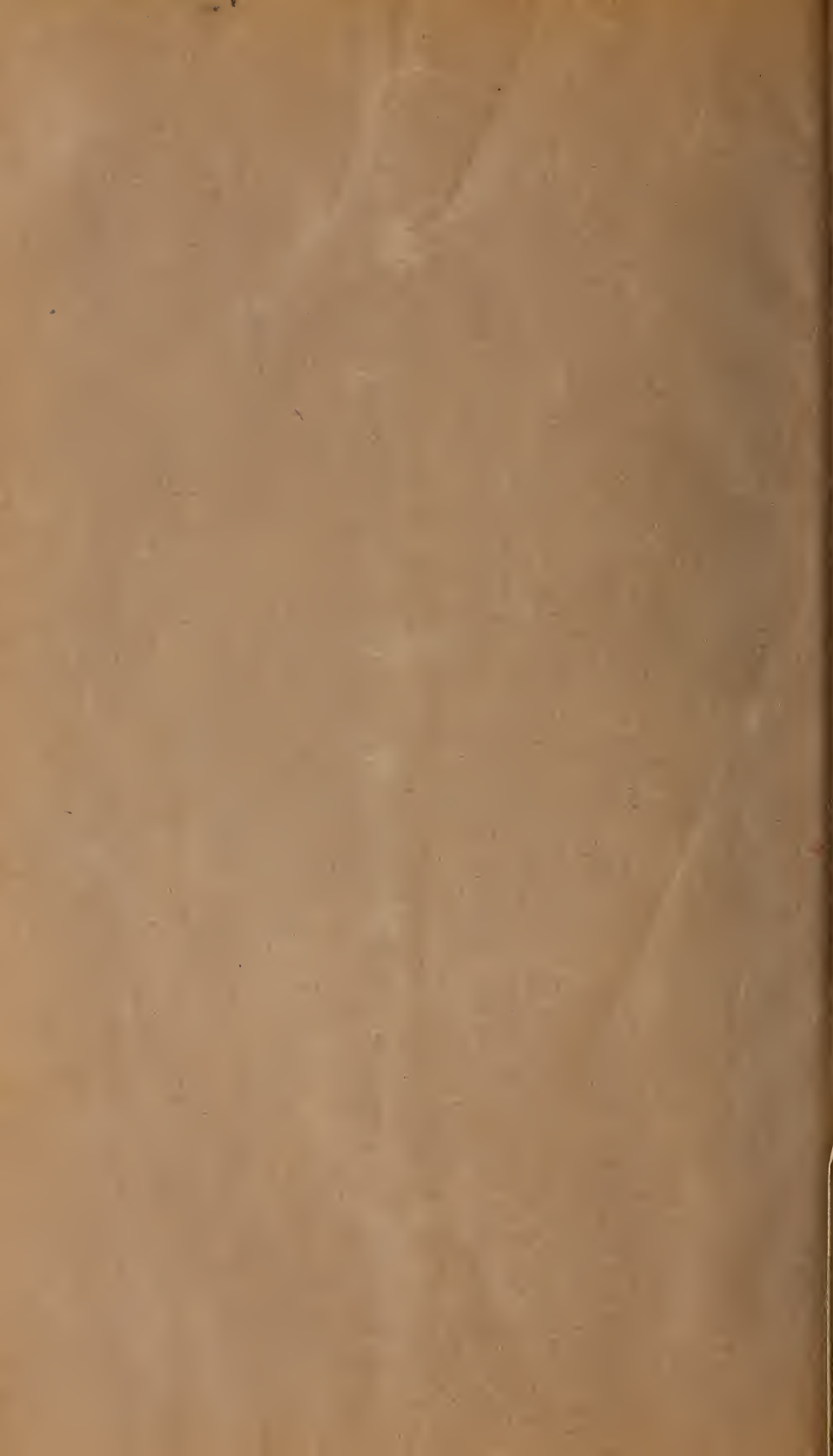
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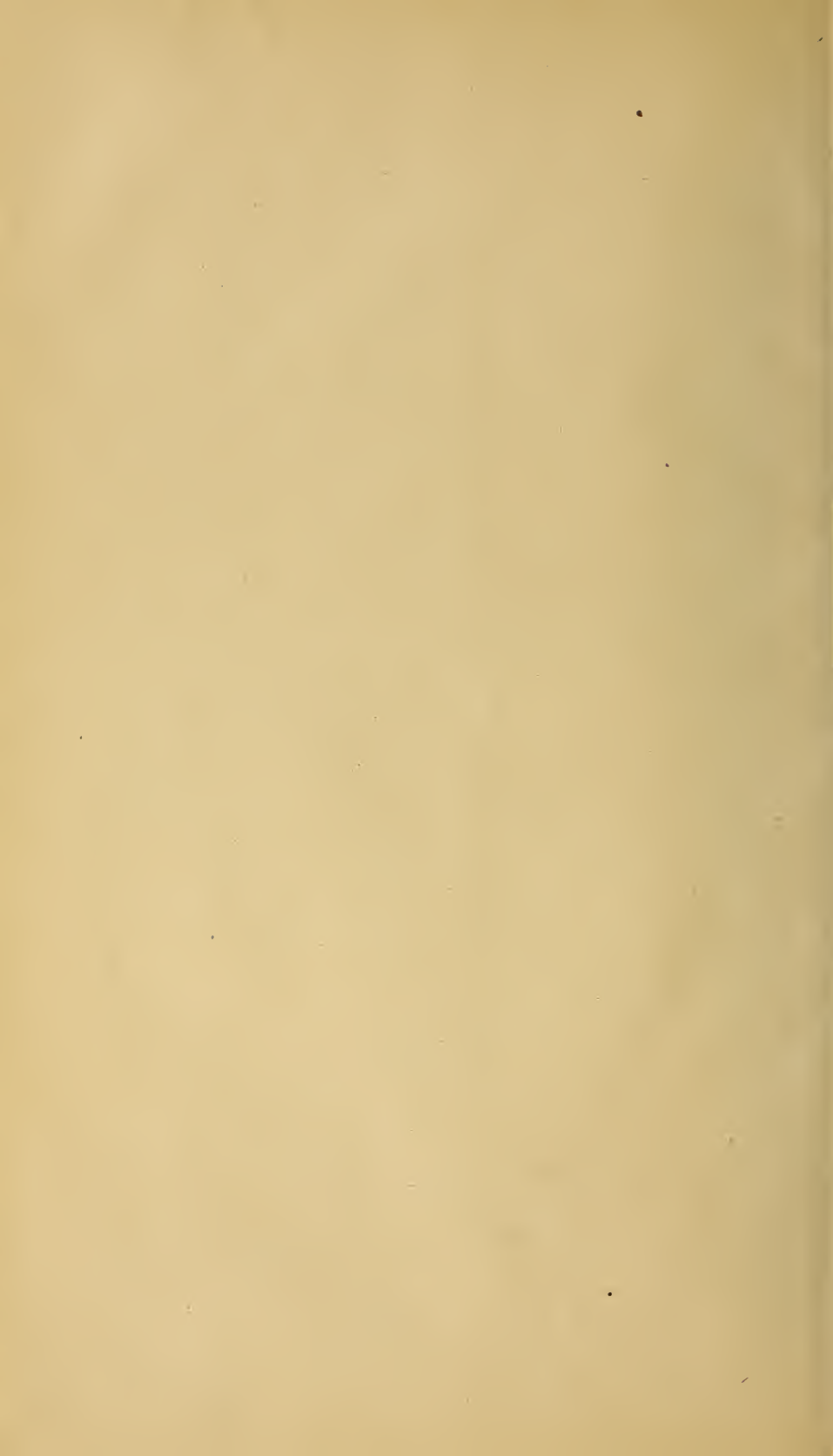
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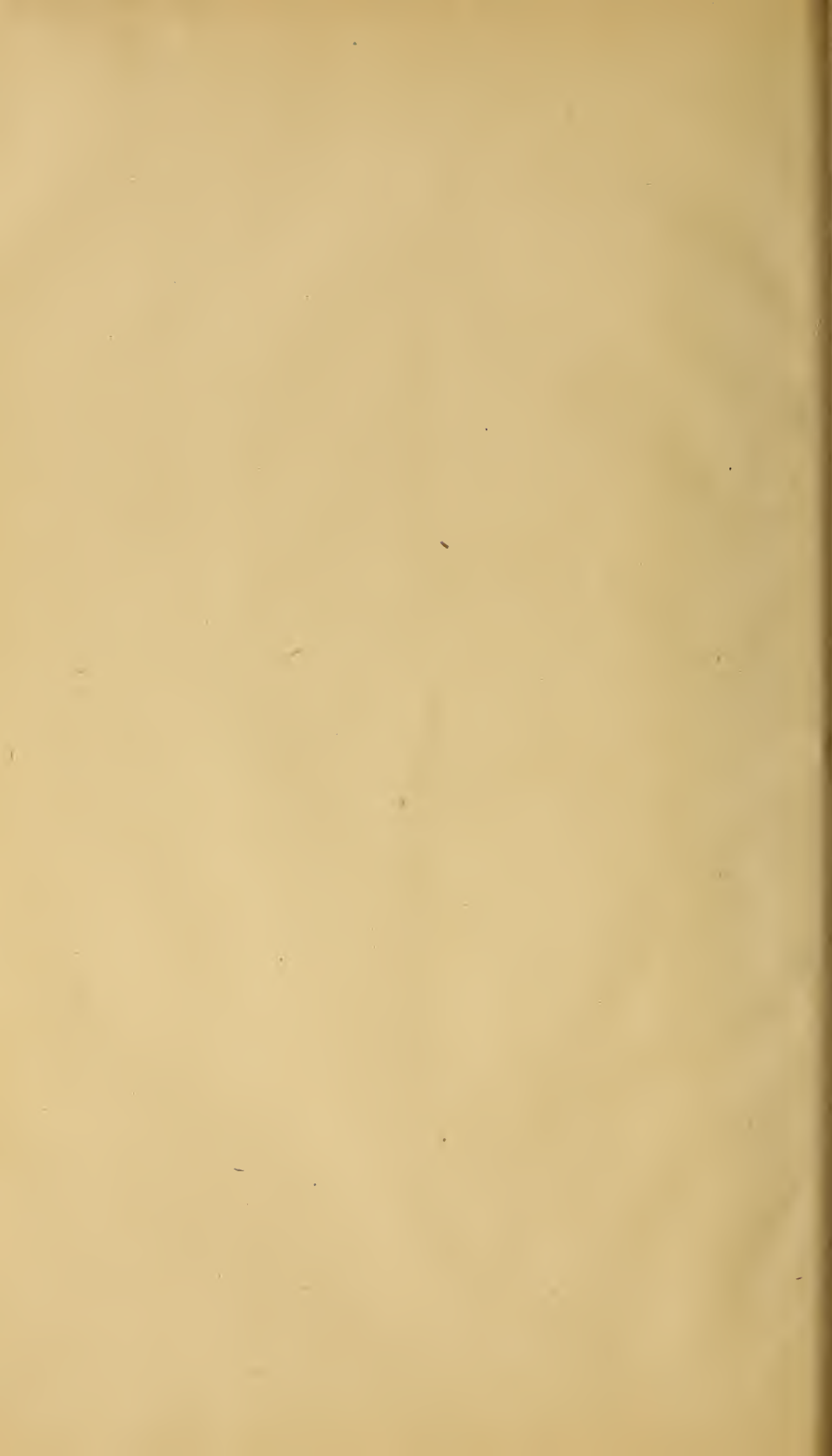
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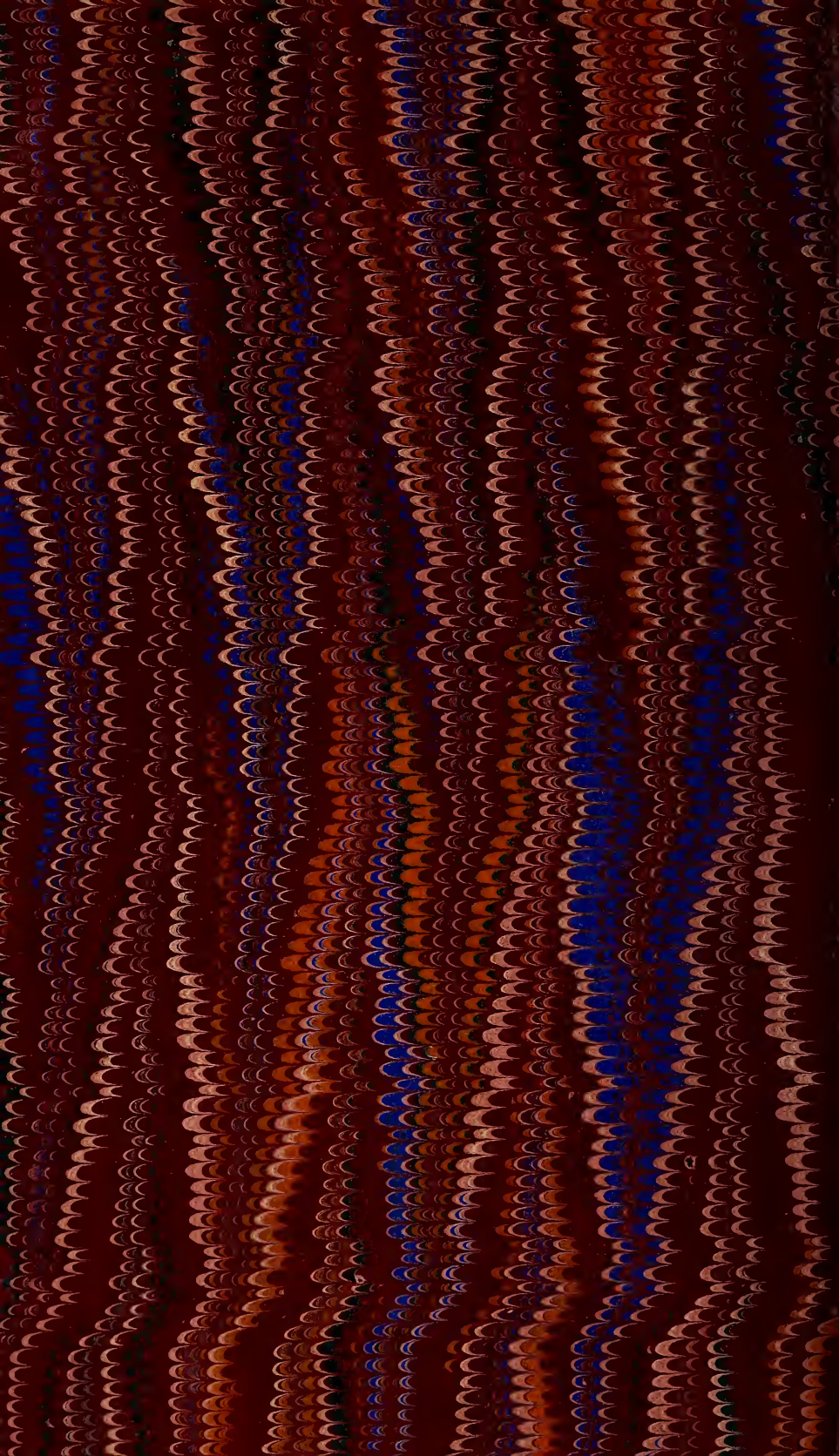
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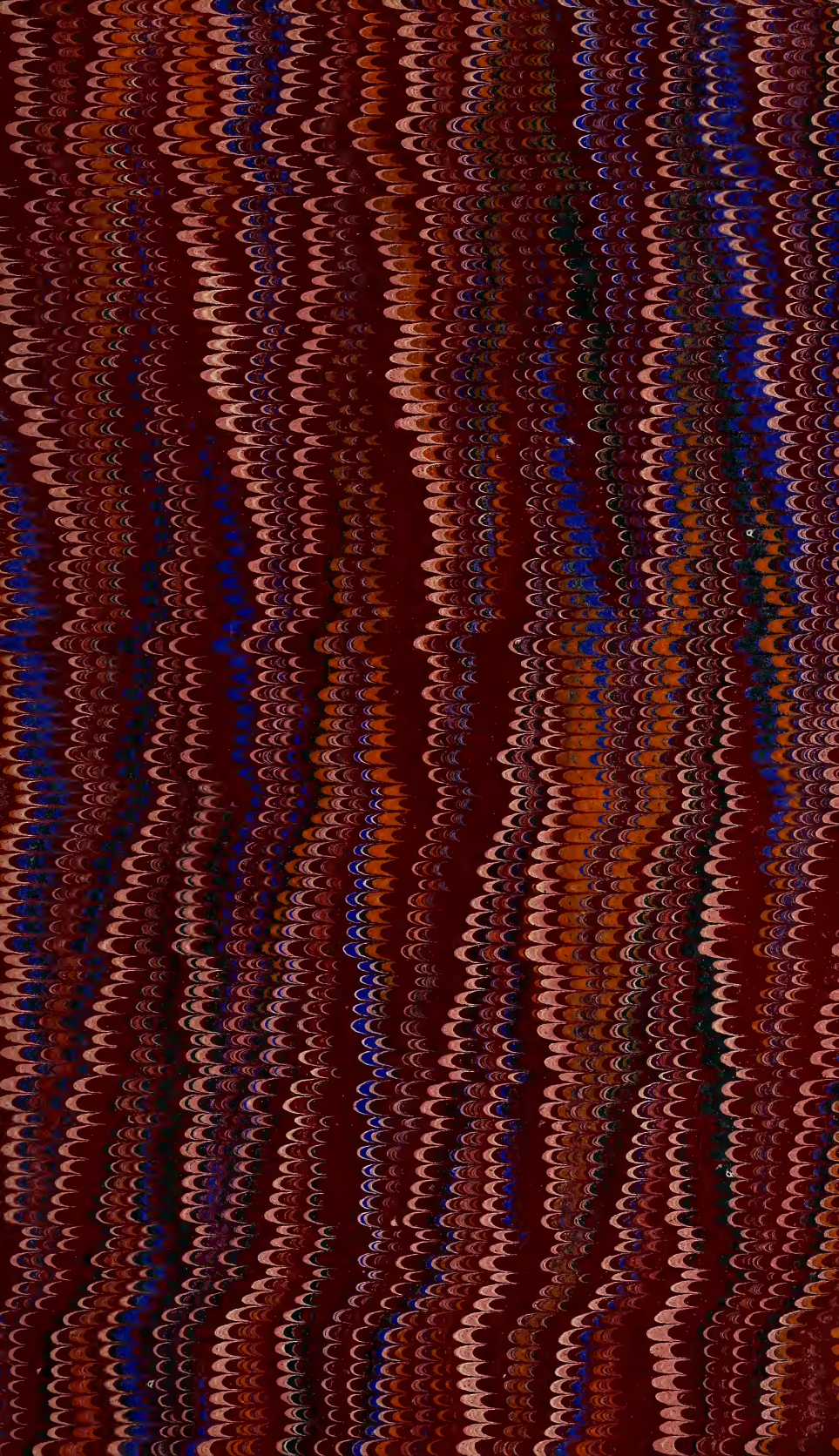
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